

**University of Tsukuba – UNEP Visit**  
**Environmental Diplomatic Leader Education Program**  
*Room 8, UNEP HQs, Gigiri*  
*29 August 2013*



- **Brian Waswala**, Environmental Education and Training Specialist (EETU – UNEP), welcomed participants and gave a brief on UNEP and its obligations in promoting a safe and clean environment;
- **Prof. Sun Xiaogang**, Associate Professor (University of Tsukuba), Japan, noted that the objective of the UNEP visit was to gain a better understanding of Africa Environment and Ecology;
- **Anna Kontorov**, Programme Officer (Climate Change Adaptation Unit – UNEP), highlighted UNEP’s approaches to strengthen the Climate-Resilience of Ecosystem and Communities. These include demonstrating and up-scaling Ecosystem-Based Adaptation approaches and policy formulation; facilitating a Global Adaptation Network for knowledge-sharing; and supporting National Access to Adaptation Funding, among other initiatives;
- **Mariam Osman**, Environmental Education and Training Specialist (EETU – UNEP), emphasized the significance of environmental education for sustainable development, with regards to the UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014);
- **Charlie Avis**, Programme Officer (UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative), called for the need for sound environmental development planning and inclusion of the poor into decision-making to achieve an inclusive, green, economy. Some avenues proposed included improvement and formalization of waste management; establishment of government cross-sectoral coordination platform for climate-change and gender programming; supporting the establishment of green funds for women’s groups for green SME credit lines; and improved and increased government investment into climate change adaption;
- **Shirley Hui Zhou**, South-South Cooperation Intern (DRC-UNEP), emphasized the need to promote South-South Exchange Mechanisms in providing successful sustainable development solutions and poverty reduction that would help meet Millennium Development Goals;
- **Sunday Leonard**, Office of the Chief Scientist (UNEP), stressed the need for enhanced environmental related exchange information to enrich decision making and ultimately behavioral change and holistic solutions to the challenges of the complex earth systems through science-policy interfaces;
- **Pablo Fuentenebro**, Associate Programme Officer (EETU – UNEP), served as moderator and provided the closing remarks.

*Feedback from invited panelists and the floor included the following key points:*

- Promoting and strengthening transformative innovations and education partnerships geared towards ensuring sustainable development; and
- University of Tsukuba-UNEP collaboration in the hydrology and waste-water treatment (resource efficiency).

*The University of Tsukuba – UNEP Visit was attended by nearly 20 participants from the Environmental Diplomatic Leader Education Program of University of Tsukuba and UNEP-DEPI Guest Speakers. It was the commencement of the 11 day internship training session.*